



RAINY WEATHER SAFE DRIVING TIPS

Before You Go...

Remember wet-weather driving requires gentle use of steering, clutch, brake and accelerator and even a larger allowance is necessary for errors and emergencies. When you begin a journey in rain, your shoes will be wet and liable to slip off the pedals, so scuff the soles on the rubber matting or carpeting of the car before you start the engine. All motorists should regularly check that their headlights, tail lights, brake lights and turn signals are working properly.

Tires: Check your tires on a regular basis. Bald tires significantly reduce your traction on wet roadways, and offer little resistance to hydroplaning. When your tires run over water, the water is displaced and it needs somewhere to go quickly. If your tires are bald, the water has no place to go and you end up riding on a layer of water, called Hydroplaning (see below).

Windshield Wipers: Replace your wipers regularly, at least once a year. The best time to replace them is in September or October, as summer heat wears down the rubber. Remember to add windshield washer fluid at the same time.

Windshield: Regularly clean your windshield and windows, both on the inside and out. This will help you see better in good and bad weather.

Once On The Road...

- Slow down! It takes longer to stop or adjust in wet weather to prevent skidding and hydroplaning.
- If you feel that the rear end of your vehicle is moving from side to side softly (not in a skid) and the steering is loose, it is likely your car is hydroplaning. If this happens let off the gas until you slow down and remember:
 - Never apply your brakes
 - Never turn your steering wheel
- If your car goes into a skid, remain calm, ease your foot off the gas, and carefully steer in the direction you want the front of the car to go. Do not apply the brakes until you are in control.

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Once On The Road (*continued*)...

- Never drive through moving or rushing water if you cannot see the ground through it.
- Never follow large trucks or busses too closely, because too much spray reduces visibility.
- Never drive over a flooded road, as the road bed may be washed out under the water. If the water is deeper than the bottom of your doors do not drive through it.
- Always drive in the middle lanes - water tends to pool in the outside lanes.
- Always leave plenty of space between you and the car in front because it takes longer to stop.
- Always be alert when driving in wet or slippery conditions. Watch out for brake lights in front of you.
- Always avoid using your brakes; if possible, take your foot off the accelerator to slow down.
- Always turn your headlights on even in a light rain, so vehicles behind you can see you better.
- When rain is light or visibility is unclear on your windshield, use your wiper fluid for cleaning.
- Foggy windows: Rain can quickly cause windows to fog up inside your car. Use your defroster with cool air. If all else fails, a rag or article of clothing will work as well.
- Heavy rain conditions: Sudden heavy rain can quickly reduce visibility. If this occurs pull over with your emergency flashers on and wait for the rain to ease up.
- Always approach intersections slowly, as these are often filled with oil spots on the road.
- If you successfully pass through a deep water hazard, test your brakes by applying slowly and pumping.
- Always brake before entering a curve, especially in wet or ice conditions.

-Information obtained from www.smartmotorist.com-

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